Mr. Rama Das.—

Is the Government aware of the average price for an acre of land in the Vani Vilas Sagara?

Second Member of Council.—

We are not prepared to make any enquiry.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Why have you given less number of units from 1926?

Second Member of Council.—

The statistics merely show that less water has been wasted.

Mr. Sanjeeviah.—

On what basis did you issue less water?

Second Member of Council.—

We have received no complaints in regard to the quantity issued. When there was plenty of water, we gave more. When the water is less, some caution is necessary.

Mr. Sanjeeviah.—

Do you think that the water supplied was sufficient for the fields?

Second Member of Council.—

We have received no complaints.

Mr. B. Linge Gowda.—

Are the Government aware that nearly Rs. 50,000 was in arrears? The raiyats are not in a position to pay that sum. Will the Government be pleased to consider the reduction of the rate of assessment?

Second Member of Council.—

There has been more water in the tank since 1928-29. The condition is more satisfactory. There is at present therefore no sufficient reason to reduce the rate of assessment. If there is any, Government will consider it.

MR. B. S. PUTTASWAMY (T.-Narasipur Taluk).—

Q.—22. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) When the pipe foundry plant was erected at Bhadravati and at what cost ?

(*b*) Whether there have been any additions to the said plant since, and if so, at what cost ?

(*c*) What has been the annual return from the same up to the end of the year 1928 ?

(*d*) What was the best percentage of good pipes got at any time and when ?

(*e*) What has been the percentage of good pipes during the half year ending 31st December 1928 ?

(*f*) Whether the outturn has not been quite satisfactory during recent months ?

(*g*) Whether any committee has been constituted to investigate the question of deterioration and if so, when and with what result ?

(*h*) Who is the person in immediate charge of the pipe foundry section, whether he is the sole officer responsible for the working of the section or whether there is any other officer to supervise the same ?

(*i*) What are the qualifications of the respective officers ?

(*j*) Whether they are contemplating the installation of another pipe foundry for the manufacture of bigger pipes and whether the Government have satisfied themselves that the new plant is going to fare better and that there would be a good market for the bigger pipes ?

(*k*) Whether the Bhadravati Iron Works is on the approved list of firms for purposes fo the sale of pipes kept by the Indian Stores Purchase Committee ?

(*l*) How many officers there are in the Iron Works getting Rs. 150 and above ; what is the present salary (showing allowances separately) of each and what was the starting salary of each at the time of his entertainment (the time of entertainment to be specified) ?

(*m*) How many of the officers shown in (*l*) belong to backward classes and how many belong to the Brahmin community ?

(*n*) What is the strength of the clerical staff in the Iron Works and how many of them are members of backward class communities and how many Brahmins ?

(*o*) What are the powers of the new committee of visitors ? Have they the right to look over the accounts and to interview sectional officers ?

(*p*) Will the Government be pleased to give more powers to the committee of visitors ?

(*q*) Whether there are any members of this Assembly on the Board of Management and if not, whether Govern-

ment would be pleased to appoint some additional members to the Board of Management who would be elected representatives of the people of the State?

(*r*) Who are the officers that have been sent to foreign countries at the cost of the Iron Works, what is the expenditure in each case and what was the subject each was required to study ?

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS.—

A—22. (*a*) Came into full operation in October 1926. Cost Rs. 4,23,961.

(*b*) Yes. Rs. 28,546.

(*c*) to (*k*) It would not be in the public interest to furnish these particulars.

(*l*) 39; Statement enclosed (*Vide* Appendix XVIII).

(*m*) 25. Brahmins and 14 Non-Brahmins.

(*n*) 38. 33 Brahmins and 5 Non-Brahmins.

(*o*) The functions of the Committee of Visitors to the Iron Works are defined in Government Order No. D. 12247-59-I. W. 76-27-15, dated the 15th May 1928, which runs as follows:—

"The Committee may visit Bhadravati once a quarter and obtain detailed information on the spot in regard to the operation and financial results of the undertaking. The Government may also refer to the Committee any special questions connected with further developments or policies upon which they may wish to consult the Committee as representatives of public opinion."

It is clear from the Government Order referred to above that the Committee has not been invested with any powers either to look into accounts or to interview sectional officers.

(*p*) It is not desirable to give any powers to the Committee. The Committee is associated with the Works only with a view to obtain first-hand information about the operation and financial results of the Works and not to exercise any powers.

(*q*) No. It is not at present considered necessary to increase the number of members on the Board of Management.

(*r*) (1) Mr. V. Ganesha Iyer. Rs. 12,182.

Deputed to England and the Continent for the preparation of final plans and estimates of the Pipe Foundry, calling for tenders for plant and machinery and all other

works to be done abroad relating to it. Also to study the plant and machinery required in connection with the manufacture of steel and ferro-alloys as well as the development of the General Foundry.

(2) and (3) Messrs. B. Viswanath and P. Krishna Rao. Rs. 10,491 and Rs 6,417, respectively.

Deputed to Europe to examine the suitability of the New Pipe Foundry equipment to be ordered with reference to the conditions of operation at Bhadravati and to settle all points relating to their manufacture, inspection and shipping to Bhadravati. Further, Mr. Viswanath was also required to study the manufacture of steel in various countries in the West.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

With reference to (*j*) of the question, will the Government be pleased to state that if the new plant for the manufacture of bigger pipes was installed, there would be a good market for these pipes?

Third Member of Council.—

It is not considered advisable to furnish information on these matters relating to commercial transactions which may affect the credit of that undertaking. There are implications and suggestions which we do not consider it would be in the public interest, to answer, *e.g.*, what the market is and if we manufacture bigger pipes, whether there would be demand for them.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

With reference to the reply to section (*m*) of the question, will the Government be pleased to observe that there is much disparity in the recruitment of non-Brahmins for service in the Bhadravati Iron Works and state whether more chances would be given to the backward communities?

Third Member of Council.—

It is the desire of the Board of Management to employ as many non-Brahmins as are available and qualified. Do you consider that the present officials must be sent away and replaced by non-Brahmins?

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

No, Sir. It appears that they have no idea of employing them at all.

Third Member of Council.—

Government do not consider it desirable to fetter the discretion of the Board of Management too much in these matters because this is a commercial undertaking. The Board of Management are perfectly aware of the policy of the Government in this respect.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

With reference to the section (*n*) of the question, will the Government be pleased to state if the appointments in the Works were made in equal proportion?

Second Member of Council.—

It all depends on the number of candidates available at the time vacancies occur.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

With reference to the reply to (*o*) cannot the Government give more powers to the Board of Visitors to enable them to lock over the accounts and interview the sectional officers in the matter?

Third Member of Council.—

How can we allow the Committee of Visitors to exercise the power of looking over the accounts and interviewing the sectional officers when there is the Board of Management responsible for the administration of the Works? The object of the appointment of the Committee of Visitors is to keep them in touch with the work and enable them to get first hand information.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Unless we see the accounts we will not be able to know whether all the sum that was spent on the Works was going to be beneficial or not. That is why we want to interview the sectional officers who would be better able to explain the things.

Third Member of Council.—

There is the General Manager whose responsibility is defined in the Government Order and who will give you all

the information that is required. It is better to go to the head of the Works. If he has not got that information he will get it from the sectional officer. You cannot have access to the sectional officers. I do not think that in commercial concerns the Management would approve of approaching direct the sectional officers and subordinates.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa —

Can you not give the accounts of the Works to the Committee of Visitors?

Third Member of Council.—

The Board of Management will surely give you all the information as regards the general financial results.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Is it not possible to appoint one of the members of this House to serve on the Board of Management?

Third Member of Council.—

There is the Committee of Visitors who were nominated from the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council to keep themselves in touch with the operations.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

One Member may be at least nominated from this House to serve on the Board of Management.

Third Member of Council.—

Government do not consider it necessary.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Government bring additional demands and want the House to pass them without placing detailed information. If any information is pressed, it is replied that it is a commercial undertaking and that the information cannot therefore be furnished.

Dewan.—

The Board of Management are willing to give you all the information they can barring, of course, certain matters which have to be kept secret.

Mr. N. G. Sanjeeviah.—

If the detailed information is not furnished to the

Committee of Visitors, how are they to know the actual position of the Works financially and how can we pass the budget placed before us?

Third Member of Council.—

You can exercise your right when the demand is before you.

Mr. N. G. Sanjeeviah.—

That is with reference to the Legislative Council. But how can the Assembly exercise its right?

Third Member of Council.—

The Assembly has no such right under the constitution.

Mr. N. G. Sanjeeviah.—

A Board of Visitors has been constituted. At least give the information to the Board.

Dewan.—

The Committee of Visitors are only expected to keep themselves informed generally about the Works. They are not responsible for the administration. They cannot exercise any power over the Board of Management, which is presided over by a distinguished Chairman.

Mr. N. G. Sanjeeviah.—

There are instances where certain Boards of Management gave wrong information and misled the public. Hence, it becomes necessary to test the information. If they say that they have 10 lakhs worth of unsold articles, should we not verify it?

Second Member of Council.—

You must accept certain statements made by them.

Mr. N. G. Sanjeeviah.—

Is any Member of Council actually in charge of the Works? If so, how many times, has he visited the Works?

Dewan.—

The Dewan is in charge of it. I have inspected the Works two or three times.

Mr. Gurumurthyachar.—

What is the kind of study the officers sent on deputation are expected to make?

Third Member of Council.—

In planning, manufacturing of pipes and calling for tenders.

Mr. Gurumurthyachar.—

How many officers have been sent?

Third Member of Council.—

Three.

Mr. Razvi.—

When the Government Order was issued appointing a Committee of Visitors, were the powers of the Committee defined?

Dewan.—

The functions of the Committee were also notified simultaneously with its appointment.

Mr. Razvi.—

Did the Committee of Visitors submit a report to the Government in this respect?

Third Member of Council.—

None.

Mr. Razvi.—

If they do not send report to the Government or to the public, how are we to know the state of affairs in the Iron Works?

Third Member of Council.—

There is nothing to prevent them from sending any report to the Government. If the matter comes up for discussion they will say what they know and they will be in a better position to explain or criticise things relating to the Works.

Mr. S. C. Malliah.—

There is one officer at Bombay whose pay is shown as Rs. 200 plus Rs. 150. Has any grade pay been fixed in the beginning in this case?

Third Member of Council.—

No.

Mr. S. C. Malliah.—

At first his pay was Rs. 100 or so. Is it quite possible that he would have got Rs. 200 all on a sudden?

Third Member of Council.—

He was appointed in September 1922. From Rs. 100 his pay must have gone up since.

Mr. S. C. Malliah.—

In the beginning the post of the General Manager was carrying a pay of Rs. 500. It has now been increased to Rs. 1,100. Has any grade pay been fixed in this case?

Third Member of Council.—

No, as far as I know. The present incumbent was holding another appointment before he was appointed to this post.

Mr. S. C. Malliah.—

Was the pay of Rs. 1,100 arbitrarily fixed?

Third Member of Council.—

The Board of Management sent a recommendation in this respect and Government sanctioned it.

Mr. S. C. Malliah.—

Did the Government consider that the increased pay was necessary?

Third Member of Council.—

Yes. The pay depends upon the nature of the work entrusted to him.

Mr. S. C. Malliah.—

Has the General Manager any training in the manufacturing process?

Dewan.—

He has been there for nine years and may well be regarded as almost a technical man.

Mr. M. S. Linge Gowda.—

Have the Government written any letter to the Board of Management that only certain information should be furnished to the public?

Third Member of Council.—

No. It is left to the discretion of the Board.

Mr. B. Narasinga Rao.—

The Board of Management has furnished all particulars that we asked for till now.

Mr. M. S. Linge Gowda.—

There are only two questions of importance in respect of the Works, *i.e.*, Operation and Finance. Is there any degree of secrecy in furnishing information relating to these matters? What is the use of appointing a Committee of Visitors and not taking them into confidence? In these circumstances what can the Government expect from this Committee?

Third Member of Council.—

I do not think the Board of Management has got any idea of withholding any information which is not prejudicial to the working of the undertaking.

Mr. M. S. Linge Gowda.—

You have appointed a Committee of Visitors. Whatever information they ask, it is said that it is confidential and cannot be furnished.

Dewan.—

We will see about it.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS.

Resolution No. 1.

MR. VEERASANJEEVA GOWDA moved the following resolution :—

"That this Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that all Provincial and District Fund toll-gates be abolished."